

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS 4 MONTHS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION FOR NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM AND FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AND AMMUNITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on October 5, 2017, Armando Islas, age 37 was sentenced to 8 years and 4 months in prison after being found guilty of negligent discharge of a firearm, felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and possessing a firearm with an obliterated serial number. Two prior convictions under the California Three Strikes law and two enhancements for serving prior prison terms were also found true

On December 12, 2016 the defendant, a former Norteno gang member, went to the mother of his children's house to discuss visitation with the children. An argument between the defendant and the mother of his children ensued. He then left her residence and fired three to four shots from a 9mm Glock into the air. The area is a residential neighborhood that has a lot of foot and car traffic. The defendant was then apprehended by Salinas police officers and admitted to firing the gun and to carrying the gun to protect himself from Norteno gang members that live on that street. The defendant is also prohibited from owning or possessing firearms and ammunition based on prior felony convictions.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police Officer Zachary Dunagan, currently assigned to the Violence Suppression Unit. The defendant originally faced a maximum of 25 years-to-life in prison because this conviction was a Third strike under the California Three Strikes law. However, at a previous hearing one of the prior strike convictions was dismissed by Judge Julie R. Culver making the defendant no longer eligible for the 25 years-to-life sentence.

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